

66TH CONFERENCE ON EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

# THE MANY FACES OF MAT MAN

Take a Journey into Mat Man's Adventures

**SELF-ASSESSMENT:** *A Journey of Change*

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

November 8-10, 2016

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## Disclaimer

Presentation materials are for registered participants of the 66th Conference on Exceptional Children. The information in this presentation is intended to provide general information and the content and information presented does not reflect the opinions and/or beliefs of the NC Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division. Copyright permissions do not extend beyond the scope of this conference.

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## Presenters:

**Watauga County Schools**

**Lisa Townsend, EC Preschool Teacher**

**Elizabeth Hutelmyer, NC Pre-k Teacher**

**Regina Parsons-Allen, Certified OT Assistant**

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### Objectives:

- Introduce the Mat Man learning tool that was created by Jan Olsen (Handwriting Without Tears).
- Describe how Mat Man teaches children to draw and develop body awareness, communication, social skills, and turn taking giving children opportunity for creativity and success.
- Describe how the COTA, EC Teacher, and Regular Education Teacher collaborated on ways to meet the diverse developmental needs in the NC Pre-k Classroom.
- Describe how a fun, multi-directional and thematic approach to Mat Man was utilized in making learning interactive and engaging while giving opportunities to progress both academically and socially.

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### What is the Handwriting without Tears program?

Handwriting without Tears is a multi-sensory handwriting program founded and developed by an occupational therapist, Jan Olsen. She developed the program as a result of the difficulties her own son was experiencing with handwriting while he was in first grade. She provided strategies to support his handwriting skills and his teachers noticed his improvement and asked her to help other students.

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### What is the Get Set for School Pre-K program?

The Get Set for School Pre-K program is a part of the Handwriting without Tears program. Jan Olsen co-created this program with another occupational therapist, Emily Knapton. Get Set for School is best described as a school readiness program that prepares young learners for kindergarten by utilizing multi-sensory, developmental, play-based learning tools and activities.

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## Class Setting and Student Make-Up

1 Teacher and 1 Teacher Assistant  
18 Four Years Olds

### NC Pre-K Risk Factors:

- Low Income- 15
- Identified Developmental Disability- 6
- Identified with Autism-1
- Limited English Proficiency- 6
- Documented Delays based on approved developmental screening- 8
- Chronic Health Condition- 2
- Priority to unserved population- 14

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## Special Education Services:

### Students with special education services:

- 6 - EC Preschool Services
- 3 - Occupational Therapy
- 3 - Physical Therapy
- 7 - Speech Therapy
- 1 - Music Therapy
- 1 - Full-time Nursing Services
- 1 - Hearing Impaired Services
- 2 - Behavioral Support Services

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## Multi-disciplinary Collaboration

- NC Pre-k Classroom's curriculum: Teaching Strategies Goals and Objectives
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Fine Motor Skills
- Sensory Motor Skills
- Social and Emotional Developmental Needs
- Special Education Goals with Related Services
  - Fine and Visual Motor Goals
  - Speech and Language Goals
  - Gross Motor Goals
- Inclusion

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## Who is Mat Man?

Mat Man is a fun character that was created as a multisensory teaching tool by HWT Get Set for School Program to help young children develop essential readiness skills in the areas of body awareness, pre-writing, number awareness, building, social and communication skills.



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## What does Mat Man teach?

By engaging in Mat Man activities, young children learn skills in the areas of:

- **Prewriting/Writing** – by learning prewriting strokes, grasp on small tools, establishing hand dominance, emerging handwriting skills, perceptual skills with building and drawing and building foundational skills in letter formation.
- **Sensory/Motor** - by developing body awareness in body part identification, orientation, and function, motor skills in the manipulation and tactile exploration of materials, large muscle movements and use of two sides of the body to perform movements with songs.

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## What does Mat Man teach?

- **Communication/Language** - by using positional terms appropriately, parts of speech, answering "WH" questions, using adjectives (descriptors), verbs, and adverbs when describing Mat Man and other variations, vocabulary, and overall language concepts.
- **Social/Emotional** – by learning skills in listening, turn taking, cooperation, interaction with peers and adults, group work behavior, empathy, sharing materials and attention to task.

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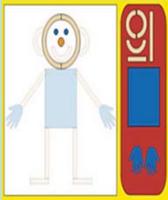
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# Mat Man Online Game



**Build Mat Man!**  
Welcome! Have fun, play, and explore with Mat Man.

<https://www.hwtears.com/hwt/learning-lounge/mat-man-world>

(Must have free subscription to access online game)

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# Mat Man How-To Video

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Self-Portrait of: Henry  
Date: 9-17-15

Henry  
10/22/15

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Self-Portrait of: Leandro  
Date: 9-17-15

Leandro  
10/20/15

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Self-Portrait of: LUCAS  
Date: 9-17-15

LUCAS  
10/20/15

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# Mat Man Multi-Thematic Photos & Drawings

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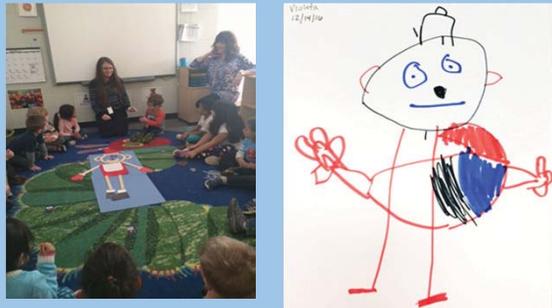
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**Santa Mat Man**

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**Snowman Mat Man**

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**A. Video**

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**Mat Girl**

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This slide features a photograph on the left showing a child's mat with a girl figure and a drawing on the right of a girl with spiky hair. The drawing is labeled 'ANNA' and dated '3/1/16'. The slide includes a title 'Mat Girl' and footer text: 'SELF-ASSESSMENT: [social media icons] A Journey of Change' and '46TH CONFERENCE ON EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'.

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**Cat in the Hat Mat Man**

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This slide features a photograph on the left showing children gathered around a mat with a Cat in the Hat figure and a drawing on the right of a man with a tall, pointed hat. The drawing is labeled 'Steph harric' and dated '3/1/16'. The slide includes a title 'Cat in the Hat Mat Man' and footer text: 'SELF-ASSESSMENT: [social media icons] A Journey of Change' and '46TH CONFERENCE ON EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'.

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**Bunny Mat Man**

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This slide features a photograph on the left showing a bunny mat man figure and a drawing on the right of a bunny. The drawing is labeled 'Mique?' and dated '3/2/16'. The slide includes a title 'Bunny Mat Man' and footer text: 'SELF-ASSESSMENT: [social media icons] A Journey of Change' and '46TH CONFERENCE ON EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN'.

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**Baby Mat Man**

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**Make It  
&  
Take It**

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**Appstate Football Players wearing RED for Aiden's Army**

Aiden, is a first grader at Hardin Park, who was diagnosed with cancer. The entire High Country, as well as our Hardin Park School family, also known as "Aiden's Army," designed many events and fundraisers to show our support.

We took the opportunity to engage the preschool class in showing their support by donning their red shirts and dressing Mat Man in his very own Aiden's Army t-shirt!



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**Aiden's Army Mat Man**

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**Aiden's Army Drawing**

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**Classroom Activity Photos**

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**Small Group Craftivity in the Classroom**

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**Small Group Activity with Playdough**

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**Small Group Activity- Mat Man Game**

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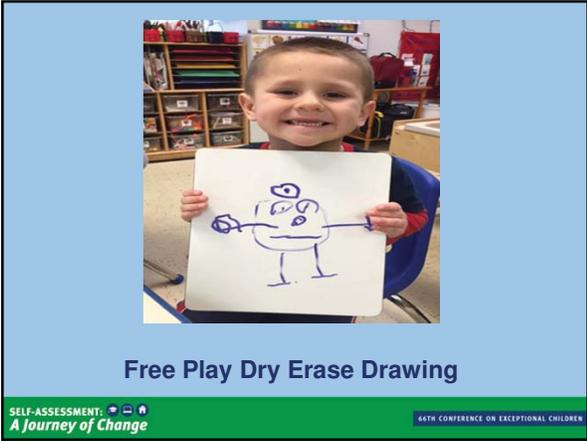
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A young child is kneeling on a concrete sidewalk, using colorful chalk to draw. The child has drawn several large, colorful shapes and some text, including the name "Miguel" and the number "5".

**Sidewalk Chalk on the Playground**

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Two children, a boy and a girl, are sitting at a table in a classroom, working on puzzles. The table is covered with various puzzle pieces and completed puzzle cards.

**Community Helpers Puzzles**

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## Self Portraits



Two self-portraits of a child named Chase. The first portrait is drawn in orange and shows a simple face with a wide smile and two small eyes. The second portrait is drawn in green and shows a more detailed face with a large nose and a wide smile. Both portraits include the name "Chase" and the date "10-17-10".

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### Self Portraits

Self-Portrait of: KENE  
Date: 8/17/16

Self-Portrait of: KENE  
Date: 8/17/16

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### Self Portraits

Self-Portrait of: Betz  
Date: 7-17-16

Self-Portrait of: Betz  
Date: 8/17/16

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### Self Portraits

Self-Portrait of: Henry  
Date: 8-17-16

Self-Portrait of: Henry  
Date: 8-17-16

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### Self Portraits

Self-Portrait of Christian  
Date: 9/23/16

Self-Portrait of Christian  
Date: 9/23/16

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### Kindergarten Orientation

Student: Chase  
Draws a Person (Orientation)

Student: Kennedee  
Draws a Person (Orientation)

Student: Steph  
Draws a Person (Orientation)

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### Happy Birthday Mat Man

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**Make It  
Snack Time**

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**C. Video**

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**Q & A  
Time**

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**Resources:**

All of the resources below were utilized by our team and found on the HWT Mat Man World website. Many other teaching activities and resources can be found at this website as well.

- Mat Man Teaches Body Awareness  
[https://www.hwtears.com/files/Mat\\_Man\\_Activities.pdf](https://www.hwtears.com/files/Mat_Man_Activities.pdf)
- Mat Man Pilot Study  
[https://www.hwtears.com/files/Mat\\_Man\\_Study.pdf](https://www.hwtears.com/files/Mat_Man_Study.pdf)
- Directions for Using Mat Man  
<https://www.hwtears.com/files/click/HWT%20Meet%20Mat%20Man.pdf>

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**Resources:**

All of the resources below were utilized by our team and found on the HWT Mat Man World website. Many other teaching activities and resources can be found at this website as well.

- Mat Man Books Sample Pages  
<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.hwtears.com/downloads/matmanbooks.pdf>
- Mat Man Rock Song Lyrics  
<https://www.hwtears.com/files/click/HWT-ROCK-lyrics-Mat-Man-Rock.pdf>

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